

# Hamsey Parish Council

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Mrs J.Toomey, Clerk to Hamsey Parish Council  
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Members of the **HAMSEY PARISH COUNCIL** are required to attend a **meeting** of the Hamsey Parish Council to be held on **Thursday 17th November 2016 at 7.15 pm at Beechwood Hall, Cooksbridge. BN73QG** Please share transport where practical.

*Up to fifteen minutes only, are available at the start of the meeting for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the following agenda. It would be helpful to inform the clerk of any questions in advance. Public are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting.*

- 1 **Apologies for absence** – Cllr.Suttie
2. **Questions from the public**
3. **Declaration of interest** by Councillors on any agenda items
4. **Minutes** of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 (to be agreed & signed as a true record)
5. **Update on any matters arising from last meeting** (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) to note actions taken and note any further action:  
*Min no.51.1: Clerk has contacted ee twice but still no reply.*

## 6. Financial matters

### a) To approve payment of invoices as detailed (including v.a.t)

Cheque No.300193	£88.92	LDC Dog bin empty
Cheque No.300194	£607.59	Clerk salary/expenses September
Cheque No.300195	£240.00	PFK Littlejohn. External Audit
*Cheque No.300196	£608.99	Clerk salary/expenses October
*Cheque No.300197	£9.75	Chair's expenses (Travel to Hellingly)
*Cheque No.300198	£52.80	KPS Contractors. Grass cutting at Malthouse park
*Cheque No.300199	£66.00	SSALC fee for Chairmanship training 5 <sup>th</sup> October

### b) To note the Council's current financial situation

Unity Trust statement 034	<b>£18871.77</b>	* less cheques not yet drawn
Co-Op Account: 30/09/2016	<b>£5,293.33</b>	(£2,165 is ring fenced)

- c) To consider the precept required for 2016/17
- d) To note that Unity Trust bank have introduced a charge of £72 per year
- e) To note that council needs to appoint a new internal auditor for 2017
- f) Request from Cooksbridge station partnership for £150 to cover posters and flyers in support of the rail service consultation

### 7a. Planning matters - to receive any report from the planning committee:

#### **Proposed Diversion of Public Bridleways Hamsey 17, ( Lewes Old Racecourse )**

**SDNP/16/05289** The Old Wheelwrights Shop, Offham BN7 3QD -Installation of an emergency escape rooflight to the southern roof slope of the detached garage

### 7b. Planning matters - to note any decisions by LDC or SDNP

**SDNP/16/03793/HOUS** Little Bretts, Whitfeld Lane, Hamsey. Conservatory – *granted*

### 7c. To consider correspondence relating to a proposal for development at The Platt,

### 8. Any report from Beechwood Hall trustees

The trustees are no longer able to cut the hedge between the car park and the field and ask if that could be added to the PC mowing contract for next year.

Trustees have been offered a public convenience which could be installed at the park and

ask if the PC would be prepared to deal with this on their behalf. They would offer a grant to the PC to cover the costs and would cover future cleaning/maintenance if the PC would cover the insurance. This is a project that was raised through the neighbourhood plan.

- 9. To note correspondence received since the last meeting and any action required**
- 10. To approve the risk assessment**
- 11. To receive any reports from meetings attended by Councillors or Clerk**  
ESCC Conference and SSALC AGM 4th October Hellingly (Tamsyn, Ian)  
LDC conference 6-9pm October 12th, Pelham House (Tamsyn)  
AIRS AGM and conference 4.30-8.00pm October 12th, Town Hall  
Meeting with LDC – exception sites (report attached)
- 12. To consider rail and bus issues**
- 13. Highway and Traffic issues including parking and speedwatch**
- 14. To consider Waste and Recycling Issues – Cllr. Baughan**  
To consider a request from a Chailey litter group for a bin to be installed in the A275 Layby north of Wickhams Lane.
- 15. Update on improvements in parish council website/communication**
- 16. Report on fundraising activities for Hamsey church - – Cllr.D'Arienzo**
- 17. To consider adoption of the telephone box in Cooksbridge**
- 18. Update on maintenance of Malthouse playground**  
Following complaints that the roadside hedge had become far too tall and was causing excessive shading of the play area, two quotes were received to prune the trees to 1.5m high. Clerk has instructed the supplier of the lower quote to carry out the work at a suitable time.
- 19. To consider the PC request to LDC for one more parish councillor (report attached)**
- 20. Items for noting or inclusion on a future agenda**  
Note: SDNP East Sussex Parishes workshop 21.Nov at 6.30pm, Town Hall (AS, MD)  
**To note a request** for lighting of the beacon 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.2018 (100 years since end of WW1)
- 21. Meeting dates for 2017 – 19<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> November – all at Beechwood Hall, 7.15pm**

Signed ----- Dated-----Mrs. J. Toomey, clerk to Hamsey Parish Council

### **Agenda Item 9 -Relevant correspondence received since last meeting**

Several items were received regarding the Caviar Farm application  
19.9.16 Biosphere partners meeting 29.9.16 – Cllr.D'Arienzo to attend  
21.9.16 CPRE details of AGM – emailed to all  
22.9.16 ESCC Invite to highways roadshow Oct.12<sup>th</sup>. Uckfield – emailed to all  
26.9.16 E Sx Fire service stakeholder forum 5<sup>th</sup> October Eastbourne  
26.9.16 Southern Water stakeholder forum 4<sup>th</sup> November Brighton  
27.9.16 Details of the outcome of the electoral review  
29.9.16 E copy of East Sussex care services  
4.10.16 Request from Chailey litter group for a litter bin in the Cherry sellers layby, A275  
6.10.16 LDC response to request for an extra councillor

- 13.10.16 Groundwork – details of free trees offer
- 20.10.16 SSALC – proposals to extend referendum principles – emailed to all
- 20.10.16 Ditchling society re. Litter campaign – passed to Robert & Tamsyn
- 20.10.16 ESCC Slides from ESCC meeting
- 21.10.16 Details of Beacon lighting 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.2018
- 24.10.16 ESCC Changes to library opening hours
- 24.10.16 OSS – concerns about fenced off bridleway – Hamsey parish Bridleway Hamsey 18b
- 26.10.16 LDC details of the PlayStreets scheme
- 27.10.16 ESCC Steven Clare emergency planning officer – planning event 14.11.16 in Brighton
- 27.10.16 Lewes CAB invite to AGM 9.11.16, Seaford
- 31.10.16 Consultation exercise on the review of the SDNPA Local List.
- 3.11.16 Cllr.St.Pierre re. Overhanging trees – emailed to all
- 3.11.16 SSALC spring conference 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- 3.11.16 Biosphere news November

**From Residents:**

- 12.9.16 Resident concerned about a vehicle in Chandlers Mead – chair and clerk have replied
- 15.9.16 Resident concerned with caviar Farm application
- 27.9.16 Resident alerting PC to removal notice in phone box
- 21.10.16 Another resident alerting PC to removal notice in phone box

**Agenda Item 11 – 5<sup>th</sup> October - meeting with LDC – exception sites**

Cllrs.Dodd, D'Arienzo and McBrown met with Leighton Rowe and Anthony Howell of LDC. Rod Hearn represented the Hamsey Neighbourhood planning committee.

Affordable housing can be rental at up to 80% of current market value or shared ownership or shared equity. There was some discussion regarding whether rent of up to £800 per month were actually affordable. LDC explained that whilst there is a requirement for some developments to include a proportion of affordable properties, they could not force developers to build social housing. An exception site is usually greenfield available at around £10,000 per plot when commercial sites are around £100,00 per plot. There was discussion around sites in the parish, including Hamsey brickworks and McBeans and about community land trusts who control the project from land purchase to rent or sale. Exception sites are usually 6-14 properties and there has to be an actual need shown in order to justify an exception site. LDC offered to carry out a housing needs survey in the parish. Rod was concerned that commercial developers can still sidestep the 40% affordable rule, as in the brickworks site. Council asked how many properties in the parish were still social housing. LDC said just 32 as all the others had been sold off.

**Agenda Item 19 - The current electorate for Hamsey Parish is 450.**

The projected electorate (2021) which was used by the LGBCE for their electoral review of the Lewes District is **518**.Hamsey Parish Council has a council size (the number of councillors to be elected to the whole council) of **7**.

The 1972 Act specifies that each parish council must have at least 5 councillors and there is no given maximum number. In 1988 NALC published guidance on the suggested number of parish councillors to be allocated depending on the size of the population to be represented. It also considered that 5 be too small a number and that the practical minimum should be seven. It also considered that local council business does not usually require a large body of councillors, this is also reiterated by the government. The allocations recommended by NALC were as follows:

Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7
1,400	8

2,000	9
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Continues to over 23,000	25
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In my opinion it would not be in the best interest of Hamsey Parish Council or Lewes District Council (the principal authority) to hold a CGR in order to increase your council size by one member, particularly as the electorate has not grown in the past 4 years, so LDC would not propose that you undertake one.

However, if the local community want us to consider undertaking a CGR then they would need to organise a petition demonstrating sufficient support among the electorate for certain changes. The legislation defines “sufficient support” as 50% signing in an area with fewer than 500 registered electors. A petition from the registered electors in Hamsey would therefore need to be **signed by 225 electors** to trigger a CGR. LDC may then take a formal decision. Your petition can be both paper and online.

I would suggest that the cost to your council of this process would be minimal and would include the distribution and printing of your petition. The cost of the review itself would be borne by Lewes District Council. These costs would include staffing costs to work on the review, particularly the consultation process.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you, I would ask that you check with us before you action a petition.

I would also like to confirm with the LGBCE that we are able to conduct a review so soon after their review of the electoral arrangements in East Sussex and Lewes District. As I said in my previous email, the LGBCE will have covered representation to a certain extent during their review and have not recommended any changes to Hamsey Parish.

The Guidance also suggests that the whole process of the CGR will take one year. Once complete, if there are changes it recommends that the Order be written and come into force the April before the next scheduled elections. The next scheduled elections for Hamsey Parish will be in May 2019.